

REMARKS

Claims 2-14, 23-33 and 39 are pending. Claims 2-3, 12, 23-27 and 39 are amended, and claims 1, 15-22, 34-38 and 40 are canceled with this response. The provisional allowance of claims 2-14, 16-17, 23, 27-36 and 39-40 is noted with appreciation.

A detailed explanation of the claim amendments is provided below. Provisionally allowed claim 2 has been amended into independent form, in which claim 2 includes the limitations of previously provisionally allowed claims 2, 16 and 17, wherein each respective limitation is recited in the alternative. In addition, provisionally allowed claims 3, 12 and 27 were amended into independent form. Also, claim 23 was amended into independent form, wherein claim 23 includes the limitations of previously provisionally allowed claims 23, 34, 35 and 36, wherein each respective limitation is recited in the alternative. Claims 24-26 were amended to depend upon allowed claim 23. Lastly, claim 39 was amended into independent form, wherein amended claim 39 includes the limitations of previously provisionally allowed claims 39 and 40, wherein each respective limitation is recited in the alternative.

Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification was objected to because of an alleged informality on page 22. More particularly, it was asserted that page 22, lines 8-9 of the specification conflicted with Fig. 3J. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Page 22 of applicant's specification asserts that "[i]n the illustrated implementation of Fig. 3J, the selective wordline pulses 113 are applied after the restore operation that follows a memory read, as well as after a write operation." Fig. 3J illustrates that described operation. Therefore the specification does not appear to contain an inconsistency. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 12-15 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 12 has been amended to address the highlighted issue, thereby rendering claims 12-14 definite. Claim 15 is canceled with this response. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIM 1, 15, 18-22, 24-26 AND 37-38 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 15, 18-22, 24-26 and 37-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,566,698 (Nishihara et al.). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Initially, claims 1, 15, 18-22, and 37-38 have been canceled with this response, thereby rendering the above issue moot. Further, claims 24-26 have been amended to depend upon claim 23, which was held to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore claims 24-26 are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION


For at least the above reasons, the claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 20-0668, TI-36818.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: May 16, 2006


Christine Gillroy